

the chronicle

OTHER SIDE OF THE TRAVELLER SITE DEBATE

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PITCH BATTLE AS HOCKEY CLUB FEARS FOR FUTURE

– see page 4



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Fuel price quiz from MP

WYRE FOREST MP Mark Garnier is quizzing big petrol retailers about their prices locally.

The MP has written to Sainsbury's, Tesco and Exon Mobile (Esso) asking why their fuel prices in Kidderminster are higher than in other local towns or cities such as Wolverhampton.

Mr Garnier pointed to Sainsbury's Wednesday on Rookery Street, Wolverhampton which was charging 129.9 pence per litre of unleaded petrol on the same day that the Kidderminster store on Carpet Traders Way was asking for 135.9 pence.

In his letter to the chief executives of the three

companies, Mr Garnier said: "I am very much aware that, owing to a number of factors, the current price of oil is incredibly high."

"I also understand that the impact of such factors will inevitably filter down to the pockets of my constituents."

"However, please could you explain why your outlets are charging up to five pence more per litre in Kidderminster when the distance between these petrol stations is less than 20 miles?"

Mr Garnier will post responses on his website www.markgarnier.co.uk

Building services merged

WYRE FOREST District Council has merged its building control section with two other Worcestershire councils in a move to save cash and improve efficiency.

North Worcestershire Building Control has been set up to offer professional advice to people who are carrying out building work.

It became a shared service between the Bromsgrove District, Redditch Borough and Wyre Forest District councils earlier this month

in a move which will save £99,900 across the three authorities.

As well as continuing to deal with building regulations, the new single service is able to offer extra advice on structural design, fire risk assessments, and thermal calculations. It will also improve the availability of site surveys.

There is now a single telephone number for North Worcestershire Building Control, 01527 881402, and from January fees for the

service will also be made the same across all three areas.

Councillor Julian Phillips, Wyre Forest District Council's Cabinet Member with responsibility for place-shaping said: "I'm delighted that Wyre Forest continues to work in partnership with our Northern Worcestershire colleagues to build on the excellent service Wyre Forest District Council has provided for those wishing to carry out building work."



Danny Cook – to be sentenced

Facebook riot page man faces sentence

A MAN from Kidderminster has admitted trying to incite a riot by setting up a website page.

Danny Cook, aged 22, of Marpool Place, set up the "Let's Start A Riot" page on Facebook in August.

The page had attracted 40 members before police were called. Worcester Crown Court heard on Tuesday.

Cook pleaded guilty to a charge of intentionally encouraging or assisting the commission of theft or criminal damage by creating a Facebook page.

Recorder Simon Medland adjourned the case for sentencing until the week beginning December 12.

HUNDREDS OF JOBS AT THE SUGAR SITE

HUNDREDS of jobs will be created under fresh plans to build around 300 new homes and a major new business park on a former sugar factory site in Kidderminster.

The development, where the old British Sugar factory stood in Stourport Road, will form part of the South Kidderminster Enterprise Park, which won support from government communities secretary Eric Pickles last month.

The plans, by site owners St Francis Group, will open up to a public consultation tomorrow and Saturday (November 18 and 19).

St Francis Group spokesman Andy Plant said the 74-acre plot was the largest brownfield site in Wyre Forest.

"The problem for this area when trying to attract business is that it is not very well connected to other regions, and in particular is some distance from any motorways," he said.

"We want to unlock this land and open it up for employment use, by building a new access road that will eventually link to Hoobrook Road. This way we can make the most of its potential."

"It will be a mixed-use

development, with around 320 new homes and a full range of businesses which will all create jobs."

"We want to make this an attractive place to both live and work, benefiting the local community."

The planning application is due to be submitted by the end of next month, and if approved then ground be broken in winter 2012.

Council leader John Campion labelled the plans "very exciting" for the town. "This fits in to the overall

By Charlotte Cross

kiddychron@expressandstar.co.uk

Takeaway cash for Children In Need

AN Indian takeaway in Kidderminster is hoping to cook up some cash for charity during a special evening of deliveries.

Indian Style, in Comberton Place, will donate 10 per cent of all orders, excluding meal deals, taken between 5pm and 11pm tonight (November 17) to this year's Children in Need appeal.

This is the first time the family run business, which has been supporting local causes in the town for six years, has taken part in the national fundraiser.

Special

Syed Ahmed, one of the chefs at the takeaway, said: "We really believe in donating to good causes and helping communities in which ever way we can."

"We hope to raise as much money as we can for Children in Need and look forward to seeing our customers get behind us during this special evening."

Collection buckets will also be on show for customers who wish to drop in a donation.

To place an order contact the takeaway on 01562 750005 or 01562 750004.



Ready to donate takings at Indian Style are, front, Arshad Ahmed and, back from left, Fahad Ahmed, Iman Ahmed and Juber Ahmed

Brass legend on the baton

LOCAL brass band legend Dennis Masters will be on the baton at a concert next week.

Stourport-on-Severn Brass Band has secured the services of the prominent conductor and adjudicator for its performance at Stourport Civic Hall on Saturday, November 26.

Band music director Mike West said: "Dennis is a local legend in brass banding and I'm very pleased to be working with him

again. He was conductor of the Langley Band when I was the principal cornet player. We had some great successes together in the 1970s and 80s. Stourport Band is privileged that he is supporting our music making."

Mr Masters will compere the concert and take the baton for three numbers.

Tickets (£6, £5 concessions) on the door or at the box office.



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We need somewhere to breathe, says traveller

"WE DON'T WANT to intrude on anyone – and we don't want anyone intruding on us."

So says 51-year-old mother-of-six and grandmother Ann Nunn, one of the dozens of "travellers" and gipsies who have been settled in the Stourport area for generations.

Temper is running high in the Wyre Forest district as the local council has been asking residents for their views on seven potential new sites for gipsies and travellers.

At a series of public meetings – each attended by hundreds of people – it has been apparent that few residents in the areas earmarked want the travelling families living nearby.

As the public consultation over controversial sites for gipsies and travellers in Wyre Forest nears its end, Louise Jew looks at both sides of the argument

Outrage of residents

WYRE FOREST District Council's proposals to create 43 new pitches for gipsies and travellers have sparked outrage from local residents from the start.

A meeting of the council's special overview and scrutiny committee had to be abandoned when too many people turned up and members decided it posed a health and safety risk.

Eight of the 15 original sites were dropped, but residents fear that means a greater chance of approval for the others.

The remaining sites include Manor Farm in Stourport, which the consultants' report says is "vacant". Farmer Tim Barnes, who has lived at the site for more than 50 years, says the farm – owned by the district council and leased to the family – is home to three businesses, employing six people.

The other sites the council is consulting the public on are Stourport Road, Bewdley; the former Lea Castle Hospital, Cookley; the former Sion Hill School, Broadwaters, Kidderminster; land adjacent to Nunn's Corner, Stourport; Saiwen, Stourport; and The Gables Yard, Stourport. Consultations conclude tomorrow (November 18).

Many have claimed that thousands of pounds have been wiped off the value of their homes by the very suggestion that sites nearby are being considered as suitable for gipsies and travellers.

Wyre Forest District Council says it needs to allocate land for 43 extra pitches – each with space for 1.7 caravans – around the Kidderminster, Stourport and Bewdley areas between now and 2022, as well as a site for travelling showpeople who run businesses such as circuses and fairgrounds.

But Ann, daughter of an old travelling family, who has lived in Stourport for most of her 51 years, reckons even more pitches will be needed.

Married

"Over the next 11 years a lot more children will be born because travellers get married earlier, at about 17 to 19 years old," she said.

"I don't think 43 pitches will be enough because there are a lot of travellers in Stourport whose children will need somewhere to live."

And she is an unexpected ally for those fighting proposals to create one site, for 10 pitches, at the former Sion Hill School in Broadwaters, Kidderminster.

"We wouldn't go to Sion Hill – it wouldn't be fair on the people who live there and I wouldn't have it myself," she added.

"It's not right for a travellers' site to be on the doorstep of their homes."

"We don't want to intrude on anyone – and we don't want anyone intruding on us."

However, she rated land at the former Lea Castle Hospital in Cookley, near Kidderminster, as a site that travellers may wish to live on, as it was in the countryside and not too close to houses.



Tim Barnes and his wife Leander Walton at Manor Farm, Stourport. They run three businesses there but land was categorised as redundant farm on council plans for a travellers' site

Ann, whose late parents Richard and Rose Smith ran a private caravan park called Greenacres, in Stourport, was brought up in the town.

She attended Tan Lane Primary, Lickhill Middle and then Stourport High School.

She left school at 16, married at 21 and she and her family have lived on the Worcestershire County Council-run Broach Road caravan site, in the middle of Sandy Lane industrial estate, Stourport, for 23 years.

They say they pay rents and rates, like any other householder.

But the family is worried about the near future.

Nightmare

It says that the council's 23-year lease at Broach Road runs out in two years' time and they do not know what will happen then – although the site is owned by a traveller family.

"I've stopped here because we like Stourport –

but it's a constant nightmare being stuck in the middle of an industrial estate, with the smells, fires being lit outside premises and traffic at all times of day and night," said Ann.

"Really we'd like to live somewhere more suitable in Stourport – somewhere we can breathe," she added.

"We are part of the English heritage and are no different to any other person, apart from we choose to live in a caravan."

"I couldn't live in a house."



Ann Nunn, aged 51, outside a caravan at the Broach Road site



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Archers writer to give a talk

A SCRIPTWRITER for The Archers is marking the radio serial's 60th anniversary with a talk at the Worcestershire County Museum in Hartlebury.

Keri Davis will be visiting the Friends of Museums Worcestershire group to explain how the soap is made. The event is on Tuesday, November 22 (7.30pm). Admission for non-members will be £3.

Old carpet warehouse to be a £6m academy

A £6.1MILLION academy will be created in a historic former carpet warehouse in Kidderminster as part of £60m regeneration plans.

The listed Piano Building at Weavers Wharf, built by Brintons in 1867, will become an education and training centre for young people offering vocational and traditional subjects.

A joint project between Kidderminster College and Birmingham Metropolitan College, the academy is expected to open its doors to the first pupils in September next year. It will be the first in a series of regeneration projects across the town.

Wyre Forest District Council leader John Campion said getting a major academic organisation interested in moving in illustrated confidence in the area.

Two held on theft of jewels

TWO MEN have been arrested on suspicion of a Kidderminster burglary after being stopped on a busy route by police who closed the road off.

Jewellery was reported stolen from a house in Cardinal Drive shortly before 12.50pm on November 7.

A vehicle was subsequently spotted by officers and followed from the A449 at Ombersley to the A448 Alvechurch Highway at Redditch. It was stopped near the St George's island at about 1.50pm and the road closed.

Two men were arrested on suspicion of burglary and one was also held on suspicion of dangerous driving.

They are being questioned. A number of items were seized by police and the road reopened shortly after 2.50pm.

Meet MasterChef hopeful Chris

CHEF Chris Williams is tackling two of the nation's most feared critics – the MasterChef judges.

Chris, who runs the cafe at the Ruskin Glass Centre, has won a place in the latest series of MasterChef: The Professionals which is now being screened.

Chris, of Cookley, was hoping to wow legendary double Michelin-starred chef Michel Roux Jr and MasterChef dining expert Gregg Wallace with his cooking.

The 35-year-old has worked at the cafe at the glass centre on Wollaston Road, Ambleside, since it opened just over 12 months ago.

The show was recorded earlier this year.



Chef and catering manager Chris Williams at Ruskin Glass Centre

Victim left injured in pub attack

A MAN was left with head and facial injuries after being attacked in Bewdley.

Police were alerted to disorder in the smoking area at the rear of HRs bar, Load Street, just after midnight on Sunday, November 6.

The victim, a man in his 20s, had received wounds to his face together with a cut to the

back of his head, as a result of being attacked with a bottle or glass. An ambulance was called but no hospital treatment was required.

The attackers are believed to be a group of about seven men, described as white and in their 20s, one of whom was wearing a bright red T-shirt.

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Pitched battle that may close hockey club

A HOCKEY CLUB which is almost 120 years old may be forced to close after losing its pitch to make way for football and rugby teams instead.

The whistle could be blown on Kidderminster Hockey Club after King Charles I School, where its members play home matches, won funding from the Football Association towards a £500,000 new pitch.

The FA insists the pile of the artificial grass "carpet" surface must be 65mm, which would be suitable for football or rugby – but too long for hockey. The club has been told it will have to leave at the end of the hockey season in March.

Chairman Chris Longmore said: "We feel we've been stabbed in the back – we've been there for 25 years and some years ago paid £20,000 to help refurbish the pitch.

"We are now in the process of going round pitches in towns as far away as Halesowen and Bromsgrove to check on availability of pitches for the 2012-13 season – we either find somewhere else or will have to close down.

"And if we move to another town, fewer players will come back to our clubhouse afterwards and we will lose members."

Mr Longmore said that the only other hockey pitches in the Wyre Forest district were two at the home of Kidderminster's rival club, Stourport.

And, although Wyre Forest Council was looking at creating a third pitch, that development is at least 18 months away and the funding not certain.

Requirements

Tim Gulliver, head teacher of King Charles I School, said: "I do empathise and feel for Chris and Kidderminster Hockey Club. But football and rugby is what young people are interested in and very few of our youngsters play hockey.

"Our young people and the local community will gain far more benefit if we have a pitch for football and rugby. We'd love to meet Kidderminster Hockey Club's requirements but the FA needs a set surface."

The FA has offered to pay half the £500,000 cost of the new pitch, with the school finding the rest through fundraising, capital funding and grants.

Kidderminster Hockey Club, which was founded in 1892 and based at Chester Road Sporting Club, has three men's and one ladies' sides and around 60 members.



Club chairman Chris Longmore outside King Charles I School

Mayor set to open charity fair

THE Mayor of Kidderminster will be opening a charity fair this weekend.

Councillor Ann Hingley will be at the Unitarian New Meeting House in Church Street, off the Bull Ring in Kidderminster on Sunday (November 20).

Attractions will include a tombola while there will be a range of goods on sale including books, toys, games, jewellery, and gifts.

Coffee, tea and home made cakes will also be for sale in the hall adjacent to the church.

The fair will be open from 10.30 am to 2.30 pm.

Most of the proceeds will go to the Mags Centre for the Homeless in Worcester, which serves the whole of the county. A smaller portion will go to support the New Meeting House which will be open for visitors on the day.

For details, contact Ash James on 01384 374007.

Hood in the Wood on school stage

KINVER Light Operatic Society is preparing to stage a production of Robin Hood and the Babes in the Wood.

It will take place between December 4 and 10 at Edgecliff High School in Kinver. Tickets range from £6.50 for concessions to £10 per adult. Call 01384 836963.

Blood donors are needed in town

BLOOD donor sessions were taking place today (November 17) in Stourport.

They were being staged at the Civic Centre in New Street from 1-3.30pm and 4.30-7pm.

More details: 0300 123 2323.

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Magic carpet ride to ancient Arabia

THE CIVIC Group is looking for lift-off with its first professional theatre production in Stourport.

Arabian Nights will be performed at Stourport Civic Hall on Thursday, November 24 (7pm).

The Fairgame Theatre Company production is part of Shindig, which takes professional live arts to community venues in Worcestershire.

Arabian Nights features expressive movement, poetic text and an enchanting score to whisk an audience away by magic carpet to ancient Arabia. The family show, suitable for seven-year-olds and up, is on a nationwide tour.

Civic Hall will host craft fair

STOURPORT Civic Hall will open its doors to a Christmas craft fair next week.

Stalls will include jewellery, locally produced honey, Lickhill Primary School Enterprise Group, a traditional sweet shop, handmade wooden decorations, illustrations, pickles and cards.

The event, from 4-8.30pm on Friday, November 25, forms part of the annual Three Kings Parade.

Members of the Civic Group will provide light refreshments and welcome visitors.

All children must be accompanied by an adult.

Civic Group chair Ian Bradley said: "We are delighted to provide this opportunity for some of our local craft makers to showcase their excellent work."

Anyone who would like to book a stall at the fair should contact Ian Bradley on 01299 875914 or Liz Sheerin on 01299 822827.

"Arabian Nights will provide an evening of magical adventure without leaving Stourport," said Civic Group chair Ian Bradley.

"This is the first time that The Civic Group have promoted a professional theatre performance. We hope that this will be the first of many new events to be offered at the heart of Stourport, Stourport Civic Hall."

Tickets cost £7 for adults, £4.50 for children and concessions. Contact 01299 878087, visit the box office on Saturday from 11am-1pm or go to Mr Clean Call, High Street, Stourport.

Hooked

Arabian Nights is one of three shows coming up in the town.

On Saturday, November 26 (7.30pm) the Stourport-on-Severn Brass Band presents Hooked on Brass at the Civic Centre. Tickets are £6 (£5 concessions) and available on the door.

The following day Christmas is Coming celebrates the festive season in songs, words and music at St Michael's and All Angels parish church (3pm). Admission is free and light refreshments will be available.



Looking for lift-off: Sarah Kameela Impey as Scheherazade and Nathan Lloyd as Sinbad

Regal entertainers are wanted for the parade

STREET entertainers are needed for this year's Three Kings Parade which takes place in Stourport next week.

The annual event is on Friday, November 25 and before the town's Christmas lights are switched on street performers will entertain an expected 5,000-strong crowd from 4-8pm.

A candlelit parade also takes place through Stourport, led by the mayor, the Stourport carnival queen Kirsty Organ, Scout and Guide bands and Father Christmas on his sleigh. Buskers, fire-eaters or any street entertainers are allowed. Contact Pete Roberts, of Stourport Business Association, on 01299 826930.



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Betty is free from pain after having implants

A WOMAN who had suffered years of pain with two jaw conditions has finally found relief after undergoing dental implant surgery.

Betty had worn dentures for many years but developed neuralgia and her trigeminal nerve had become inflamed.

"I had terrible jaw pain and suffered pins and needles in the side of head and tongue. It's a terrible condition. I'd had an MRI scan and seen a specialist but was still without relief," she says.

Clinical dental technician Mr Burchell had made dentures for Betty seven years ago and she returned to his clinic to inquire about a new prescription because the lower denture had lost its stability.

"I had put up with the floating effect of my lower denture and needed to address the problem. My lower gum has receded so much my denture was pressing down on a nerve and causing me pain," she adds.

"Steven explained the benefits of implant-retained dentures and told me it would allow my bite to be opened some more. Since having the implants on my lower denture, I have experienced no more pain."

Mr Burchell said all dentures have a shelf life and Betty's denture problem was due to shrinkage of her gums – a naturally occurring aging process.

"We hoped for an improved outcome on her condition, but never dreamed that the final clinical result could be so rewarding with Betty being free from pain," he added.

Transformations

Suction is new solution



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A CUTTING-EDGE development to help resolve the stability problems faced by thousands of denture wearers is being offered at a Dudley clinic. Denturist Steven Burchell Dip CDT RCS(Eng), who heads the team at the Denture Clinic in North Street, says the invention has the potential to improve the life quality of patients who previously have experienced long-term problems with ill-fitting teeth.

Prosthetics are held in place by tiny valve-operated suction devices which are built into the dentures.

A clever diaphragms principle, triggered by the bite pressure on patients' gums, creates a 'sucking' vacuum between the soft-tissue mouth lining and the prosthetic.

Mr Burchell, whose clinic attracts patients from as far as Spain, the Isle of Skye and the Isle of Anglesey, adds: "The denture revolution is evolving at a

pace. In recent times we have seen what I can only describe as strident steps forward with implant-retained dentures coming into main-stream dentistry, clever technology which allows excellent fitting outcomes and now the Ultra Suction product.

"Implant dentistry is not suitable for everyone, neither is it all patients' first preference.

"The beauty of this technology is that it offers excellent denture retainer qualities without the complex clinical procedures which are required for implant work.

'Toolbox'

"We have always endeavoured to be on the very cusp of clinical development and this is another tool in our commitment to always try to deliver results which are greater than patient expectations."

Historically, lower dentures can present stability problems as the jaw bone erodes with age. With

traditional dentures this can cause lower teeth to move and create friction problems on gums.

Mr Burchell adds: "The device can be mounted on upper or lower palates and because of its efficiency allows us to consider a reduction in the size of the acrylic 'plate' which can result in improved speech and taste.

"The Ultra Suction kit increases the options in our clinical 'toolbox' and can provide affordable solutions to many patients who would not wish to pursue the stability resolve with implants.

"I am passionate about the transformations good prosthetics can achieve. You can regularly turn the clock back ten years on someone's face – without the pain of plastic surgery."

Typically, patients will be encouraged to contribute their views to treatment plans and generally be assigned more than three-and-a-half clinical hours in achieving the best possible outcome.

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AdeleChristmas looming,
as is my departure

LESS than two months until the Christmas season takes hold? I'm not going to say it, because it'll remind me that I have bought NO CHRISTMAS PRESENTS YET! Urgh, it's going to be a December 24 job, I can feel it now.

Fancy treating your work colleagues to a lovely dinner before the festive season takes hold?

We've teamed up with the Frankie & Benny's in Kidderminster to say thank you to the work-places of north Worcestershire. Nominate YOUR workplace to be The Wyre Workplace of the Week by emailing dji@thewyre.com and you could win £30 to spend in the restaurant. Listen to The Wyre Breakfast Show for all the details.

The colleagues at Lumsdons Solicitors are putting on an event for Children In Need. The "Willathon" is on Friday, November 18 at their Worcester and Stourport offices. The group will not charge clients but instead will ask them to make a donation to

Children In Need, suggesting a minimum of £50 per will.

There will also be free tea/coffee and homemade cakes for those waiting to see someone for a will. Telephone their offices on 01299 827766 for an appointment or drop in on the day.

I've just got enough words left to say...so long, and thanks for all the fish.

It's been a brilliant year on 107.2 The Wyre but it's with a heavy heart that I tell you this is my last column for the Kidderminster Chronicle and this is my final week on 107.2 The Wyre.

Thanks to everybody who's taken time to read the nonsense I've written and listened to the nonsense I've spouted on the Breakfast Show. It's been lots of fun, and hey - let's stay in touch! Maybe go for a drink and a long walk on the beach sometime? No? OK then, I guess I'll see you around.

Love, light and peace.

DANI WOZENCROFT FROM
WYRE NEWS WITH
THE LATEST ROADWORKS

Bringing travel updates to keep you moving...

Kidderminster.
Lower Mill Street has a lane closed between the petrol station and the Ringway today (November 17).

Stourport.
Green Street has a lane closed by the Aldi/Morrisons junction until tomorrow (November 18).

Stourport Road has stop and go boards between Lisle Avenue and Foley Drive until tomorrow (November 18).

Lower Mill Street has temporary traffic lights at the Bull Ring/Pitts Lane junction on November 20.

A442 Worcester Road closed between The Ringway and Chester Road South until November 21.

Green Street has one lane closed near the Ringway until March 30, 2012.

Stourport.
B4195 Bewdley Road North closed near Steatite Way today (November 17).

Linden Avenue has temporary traffic lights at the Hermitage Way junction until November 21.

Minster Road has one lane closed near the Oldington Lane junction until December 7.

A451 Mitton Street has one lane closed near the Oldington Lane junction until December 7.

Areley Lane will be closed between Ribbesford Road and

If you need to contact 107.2 The Wyre or have a community announcement, email info@thewyre.com

WEATHER
UPDATE

THINGS are expected to be unsettled today with the definite threat of rain tomorrow.

It will also be quite windy but relatively mild for the time of year.

That pattern is likely to continue into the weekend but there should be bright patches about.

Occasional frost is possible during the cool, clearer spells of weather but generally temperatures should be at or above normal.



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Soldier son's poem read out at service

A STOURPORT teacher introduced a special poem to a service of remembrance – written by his soldier son.

Year Six teacher Max Keen helped pupils to arrange the service at Amblecote Primary School on Friday.

The event was attended by staff, pupils and their parents.

Youngsters have been learning about conflicts over the past century.

They gave a presentation before reading out some of the poems they have written in class.

Silence

And Mr Keen's son Corporal Harry Keen, who is currently training for service in Afghanistan, recorded another poem which was played during the course of the assembly.

Corporal Keen has previously been able to attend the ceremony, but could not do this year.

A minute's silence was held at the end of the poem and the youngsters sang a hymn, 'I Vow to Thee My Country'.

Teaching assistant Emily Dowler said: "We are very proud of all of the youngsters who took part."

On Remembrance Sunday, parades, wreath layings and services were staged at Wyre Forest's three main towns of Kidderminster, Bewdley and Stourport.

Village parades in the district included Wolverley and Cookley.

Veterans join the pupils



Veterans, from left, Ted "Chalkie" White, Peter Dunn and Larry Billingsly with teacher Phil Rose at Wolverley CE Secondary School's remembrance service

SERVICE veterans joined staff and students for a remembrance service at Wolverley CE Secondary School.

The veterans – Larry Billingsly, president of the Kidderminster Branch of the Royal British Legion, secretary Peter Dunn and regimental association bugler Ted "Chalkie" White were moved both by the service and the numbers of students and staff who attended.

Humanities teacher Phil Rose, organised the event with students Kathryn Craik, Ben Stanley, Ben Davis and Natasha Cwi-etcow. He said: "Students have researched the details of the ex-Wolverley Grammar students who died in battle in the Ypres and Somme regions and so the service is always extremely relevant to the immediate local community and to our school."

Thieves snatch Legion cash tin

CALLOUS thieves stole a poppy collection box in Stourport.

The Royal British Legion tin was taken from Stourport Rugby Club, in Harold Davies Drive, between 5pm and 9pm on Saturday, November 12. Contents are estimated at between £50 and £75.

West Mercia Police crime prevention advisor Peter Aston said charity box thefts were despicable at any time of year.

"However it is particularly shocking that this theft happened between Armistice Day and Remembrance Sunday," he added.

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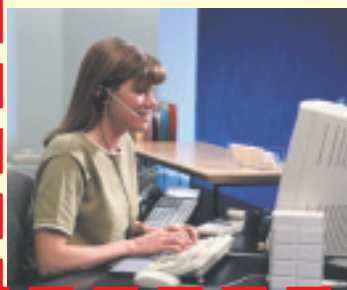


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Woman's £20,000 father-in-law scam

A KIDDERMINSTER woman who stole almost £20,000 from her 85-year-old father-in-law in a "cruel" two-year scam is behind bars after admitting five charges of fraud.

Debra Addison, aged 46, siphoned off the cash from partially-sighted pensioner Kenneth Addison to pay for items ranging from a £7.98 book to a £1,000 cruise for herself and her husband.

Victim is struck on towpath

A YOUTH snatched a cigarette from a man's mouth and punched him when he protested.

It happened at 8.20am on November 2 while the 18-year-old victim was walking on the towpath alongside the Kidderminster Tesco store towards Castle Road.

The cigarette was taken from him by a youth walking in the other direction.

When the victim asked for it back he was punched and held in a headlock.

The attacker then ran across the store car park, followed for a time by the victim still asking for his cigarette to be returned.

The man who was attacked suffered injuries including bruising, cuts and grazes to his face.

His attacker was white, aged 16-18, 5ft 9in, slim and with short dark hair. He was wearing medium blue jeans and a black zip-up top.

Witnesses should contact Pc Emma Gunnell on 0300 333 3000 or Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

She was jailed for 20 months at Worcester Crown Court after pleading guilty.

Judge Philip Parker QC told the hearing that Mr Addison had been "devastated" by the loss of savings, accumulated through a frugal lifestyle. The action had affected the level of care he could afford.

"These were cruel frauds carried out on a very vulnerable man who trusted you implicitly," he told her.

Mr Matthews Barnes, prosecuting, said Addison had been an administrator for a local council for 25 years and was trusted by the family to look after the elderly man's accounts.

The racket was only revealed when other members of the family discovered money was missing.

Miss Cathryn Orchard, defending, said Addison had managed her father-in-law's affairs for five years before the fraud started.

Tabletop sale at the village hall

STOURTON Village Hall will stage a tabletop sale a week on Saturday (November 26).

Stalls will be set up from 9.30am with doors opening to the public an hour later.

Entry for adults will be £1; children free. Tables cost £10 - call Margaret Rogers on 872073.

School is poised to mark 150th birthday



Spencer Gregg, aged 10, headteacher Ian Smith and Erin Woodward, seven, get ready to celebrate the anniversary of Upper Arley Primary School

A PRIMARY school near Bewdley is celebrating 150 years since first opening its doors to children - and wants to hear from ex-pupils for a special celebration.

Upper Arley Primary School will mark the anniversary with a festive fair on December 3. Staff are urging former pupils to get in touch so they can send out invitations. It will give ex-students the chance to meet up with their old classmates while enjoying festive themed events.

The school opened in 1861 and for much of its life was a first school attended by nine and 10-year-olds before they moved up to secondary school.

The fair will feature period costume performances by the Discover History and Svartsland theatre groups. Stalls will sell vintage clothing and jewellery. Ex-pupils are asked to call 01299 861260.

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Motor along to CS Live

CLOTHES Show Live, the UK's biggest fashion and beauty event, returns for its 23rd year with even more fashion, beauty and shopping than ever from December 2-7 at Birmingham's NEC.

With hundreds of leading fashion and beauty brands, non-stop catwalk shows, hair and beauty demonstrations, leading industry experts and the UK's favourite celebrities, it's the ultimate girls' day out. And what's more, you could be going for free!

Clothes Show Live in association with Suzuki has joined with the Chronicle series to give 27 readers the chance to win a pair of tickets to the show. Whether looking for the latest, cutting edge fashion; glamorous catwalk shows featuring not-yet-seen designer collections; the perfect opportunity to pamper and relax; and much much more - this year's Clothes Show Live is bigger and better than ever.

Celebrities

Benefit, GHD, Lippy London Beauty, Lee Stafford and Eylure are among the well known and best loved fashion and beauty brands to shop from; while X Factor resident hairdresser Jamie Stephens, celebrity stylist Karl Willett and Clothes Show veteran Caryn Franklin will all be on hand to give demonstrations and their vital advice about the industry.

Don't miss the UK's favourite celebrities and musical icons including: Alexandra Burke; TOWIE's Lauren, Maria, Kirk, Joey, Amy and Harry; Her Majesty & The Wolves feat. Pussycat Doll Kimberly Wyatt; Jeff Brazier; girl band Parade and a host of Hollywood stars as they appear across the shows stages and bars including the Diet Coke Image Catwalk.

Catch stylish duo George Lamb and



Grace Woodward presenting in Clothes Show Live's famous Suzuki Fashion Theatre.

Here Clothes Show Live entwines fashion and music featuring performances from Her Majesty and the Wolves featuring Kimberly Wyatt in an original themed catwalk show. This year's theme is A Night At The Department Store and you can see more than 40 models and dancers perform an awe-inspiring spectacular in collections from top designers and find out what really happens when the lights go out in your favourite shops.

• For more information, visit www.thenec.co.uk and for tickets, which start at just £27 (plus booking and transaction fees), go to www.theticketfactory.com.

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Clothes Show has launched the new mobile phone app for iPhone and Android users: Clothes Show - Keep Fashion Live.

The app ensures glamorous goddesses have fashion at their fingertips 24/7, 365 days a year. It is packed with the latest must-know news; celebrity blogs; expert styling and beauty tips; street style photographs direct from the UK's most fashionable cities and exclusive shopping offers.

It is free to download from the Clothes Show hub, clothesshow.com, or directly from the App Store for any iPhone users or the Android Marketplace for Android users. The Clothes Show App is what the fashion-pack are all lusting after this season - just search Clothes Show Live - Keep Fashion Live.



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At Bewdley Baptist Church are Griff Rhys Jones, second left, with, from left, civic society chairs Richard Perrin (Bewdley), Pauline Annis (Stourport), Nick Hughes (Kidderminster) and Stephen Inman (Worcester). Picture: Colin Hill

Check first, Griff warns audience

A COLLABORATION between Bewdley Festival and Bewdley Civic Society took broadcaster Griff Rhys Jones to Bewdley Baptist Church on November 3. A capacity audience heard Jones combine his talent to amuse with his views on the need to care for the surroundings. As president of national charity Civic Voice, Jones exhorted his audience always to consider the type and quality of proposed developments before it becomes too late.

The hunt is on for rock-solid demonstrators

THE National Trust is to restore another of the celebrated rock houses at Kinver Edge - and needs volunteers to show visitors round.

The house, known locally as the Martindale Caves after one of the families that lived there, has been the subject of public consultation for the past year. People have told staff what they would like to see on display.

They have also chosen what period they want the restoration to reflect.

The vote is now in and an overwhelming number of people voted for the house to be restored to the way it was in the 1930s, complete with lino floor.

Staff want a large number of new volunteers to help show people around the new house and run school visits.

Taster

Property manager Lizzie Hatchman said: "It's a wonderful project to be involved in."

"We really want to get local people on board and help bring the house to life."

Anyone interested in finding out more can go to a volunteer taster day on Saturday (November 19) from 11am-4pm where staff will be on hand to show the houses and discuss the project.

Alternatively, contact Laura Broadhurst at laura.broadhurst@nationalltrust.org.uk or on 07920181605.

Fairtrade sale for town hall

FAIRTRADE campaigners are setting up their first sale at Kidderminster Town Hall's Corn Exchange to make the most of the Christmas rush.

The event on Saturday, November 26 will be opened at 10am by TV news presenter Michael Collie, patron of the Kidderminster Fairtrade Group.

Fairtrade jewellery, crafts, toys, cards, clothes, bags and food will be on sale until 4pm. There will also be refreshments.

Organisers Alison Burton and Clare Cassidy hope people will make it a Fairtrade Christmas.

"There have been sales before, but this is our first at the town hall," said Mrs Burton.

"We are hoping to reach a wider market for Fairtrade goods because they are good quality and give a fair wage to those who produce them."

Arsonists torch car

A CAR containing Christmas presents has been destroyed after an arson attack in Kidderminster.

The Peugeot 306 was set alight on a drive in Jubilee Drive. A neighbour raised the alarm after hearing the glass in the vehicle break and looking out to see flames coming from the back window of the car.

PC Emma Gunnell said: "We are treating it as arson. The owner had only recently acquired the vehicle and is most upset, particularly as there were Christmas presents in the boot of the car which were also destroyed."

The incident happened on October 27.

Pub site will host homes

FOURTEEN new homes will be built on the site of a demolished pub in Kidderminster after planners gave the go-ahead.

The scheme in Sutton Park Road has been approved by Wyre Forest District Council.

There will be six detached houses and eight terraced homes, all of them two storeys in height.

The pub closed about five years ago and residents have since complained about fly-tipping and rat problems.

Food and flowers are Christmas combination

CHRISTMAS food is the subject of Stourport Floral Arts Club's meeting at Areley Kings Village Hall.

Demonstrator Bob Harris will use food cooked on stage to complement his flower arrangements.

Refreshments will be available for the event, on Monday, November 28, and the sales table member's competition is for a festive door decoration. Tickets, £8, are available from Frances Bashford (01299 826620) and possibly on the night. Doors open at 6.30pm for 7.30pm.

A buffet supper supplied by Peggy Godsall and a demonstration by members Margaret Cook, Sylvia Bennett, Lyn McCoy and Joan Southerton was held at the Elizabeth Mills Centre on October 31.

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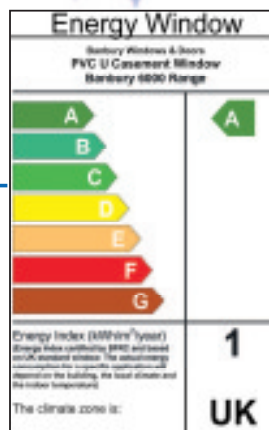
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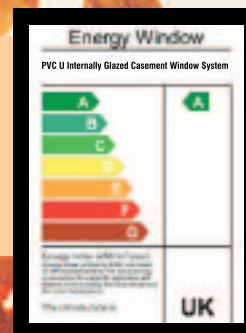
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Baldwin Lodge, which has sold for £280,000

House named after PM sells for £280,000

A LANDMARK Wyre Forest house which was named after former Prime Minister Stanley Baldwin has been sold for £280,000 at auction. Bids flooded in for the three-bedroom Baldwin Lodge which is a short distance from Astley Hall in Stourport where the statesman died in 1947.

Baldwin, who had three spells in office at Downing Street in the 1920s and 1930s, was born in nearby Lower Park in Bewdley.

The property named in honour of Bewdley's most famous son went under the hammer at a Halls' property auction in Kidderminster and included two outbuildings, a chalet, courtyard and gardens.

Duncan Foulkes, spokesman for the auctioneers, said the house, which is in need of being refurbished, attracted a lot of interest from buyers.

"After an opening bid of £200,000, the bidding rose quickly and the property was purchased for £280,000 by a local lady," he said.

Wars

Baldwin first entered the House of Commons as an MP for Bewdley in 1908.

He was Prime Minister three times in the period between the First and Second World Wars and also held the positions of Chancellor of the Exchequer and President of the Board of Trade.

He later became the First Earl Baldwin of Bewdley and was also a Knight of the Garter. The father of six died aged 80.

His ashes are buried at Worcester Cathedral and many people visit every year to pay tribute to the famous politician.

Other lots in the auction included 19.35 acres of pasture land at Drakelow Lane, Wolverley, near Kidderminster, which sold for £120,000.

The majority of the site, which is accessed off Drakelow Lane, is light pasture land with a small area of scrubland.

Festive lights to go on

CHRISTMAS lights will go on in Kidderminster this weekend.

Father Christmas, Kidderminster Mayor Anne Hingley and a competition winner will flick the switch at 4.30pm on Saturday (November 19) outside the town hall.

Festivities will begin at 2pm with entertainment including performances by Kidderminster singer Laura Broad, the St George's Choir and soloist Benny Jay.

At the Swan shopping centre youngsters can meet Father Christmas between 3.30 and 4pm.

Residents are also invited to the grand opening of the coronation gardens. The site between Worcester Street and Oxford Street will be unveiled at 2.30pm before an afternoon of live music led by Sudio Suki.



Sisters Hetty Randle, left, and Mari Randle on stage with Vault of Eagles

Sister act as Eagles hope to take wing

KIDDERMINSTER rock band Vault of Eagles will go head to head with four other acts when a national music competition comes to a climax this weekend.

The Marshall Ultimate Band Contest, which has seen unsigned acts short-listed to five finalists by public vote, takes place in Milton Keynes on Saturday (November 19) with the winners in line for a host of prizes.

The acts are competing to have their music heard by industry insiders and will receive a one-year endorsement from amp company Marshall.

Whisky

A studio session at Metropolis is also up for grabs, while the winners will also play at the Down-load festival in 2012 and receive music equipment and a supply of Smokehead whisky from the competition's sponsors.

Also competing in the final will be Weak of Wanting from Milton Keynes, 4th Wall from Kent, Durham-based Spectrum and London group The Royal Cartel.

Sons of Icarus, from Guildford, won the competition in 2010 and will give a live performance at Saturday's event.

Three-piece band Vault of Eagles formed in October 2009 and consist of Mari Randle on guitar and lead vocals, sister Hetty Randle on bass and Scott Ewins on drums.

They are due to release their debut EP in early 2012.

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At the bridge are, from left, county councillor Maurice Broomfield, county councillor John Smith OBE, Andrew Waite of Halcrow Group Ltd, county councillor Alwyn Davies, Volker Laser managing director Mike Weaver and Worcestershire County Council engineering project manager Richard Attwood

Work is complete on £1m bridge rebuild

Candles warning by fire service

HOUSEHOLDERS in Wyre Forest are being urged to take extra care when lighting candles this year.

Hereford & Worcester Fire and Rescue Service has made the appeal.

Watch Commander Darren Packwood said: "Candles are a typical sight in many homes."

"Left unattended, an open flame could all too easily leave a trail of devastation. Nationally, more than fifty fires are started by candles every day."

A £1.1MILLION restoration project on a nearly 200-year-old landmark bridge near Stourport has been completed.

Work has been carried out to strengthen the Grade II-listed Holt Fleet Bridge, which was designed by engineer Thomas Telford.

A series of roadworks and a weight-restriction limit had been in place while the repairs were carried out, leading to delays for people travelling between Kidderminster and Worcester. The bridge, which carries the A443 across the River Severn, has been reinforced and repainted.

The work took place following the introduction of an emergency 7.5 tonne weight restriction two years ago due to safety fears at the spot. That restriction has now been lifted to open up the route to both commuter and commercial traffic.

Councillor John Smith OBE, Worcestershire County Council's cabinet member for highways and transport, said: "This is great news. The removal on the 7.5 tonne weight limit that was imposed on the bridge two years ago was an important objective to allow traffic unrestricted use of the road again and reopening this area of Worcestershire to business."

Complex

"The bridge is a very complex cast iron structure and is nearly 200-years-old. The essential repairs were equally complex, but we are very pleased with the result of completion on time and within the budget."

"I'd like to express my gratitude to motorists and those living locally for their patience whilst the essential works have been carried out and to the contractor, Volker Laser."

The 150ft bridge was constructed between 1826 and 1828.

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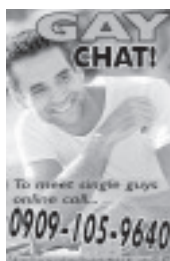
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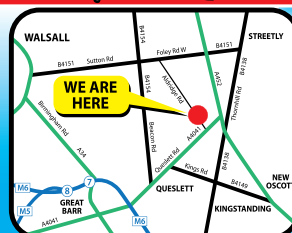
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Festive fun in this chocolate heaven

WHAT better way to get into the festive spirit than a tasty family day out with that added bonus – chocolate.

Cadbury World is getting into the Christmas spirit this winter and has joined forces with the Chronicle series to give away tickets to 12 lucky families for a fun-packed day out.

Every weekend from Saturday, November 19, Santa Claus will be flying in from the North Pole to take up residence at the Bournville-based attraction, where children will have the chance to meet him and receive a free gift.

Cinderella will also be making an appearance and getting her glad rags on to perform in a pantomime in the Cadbury World marquee. This enchanting 30-minute production, complete with original songs and plenty of jokes, promises to be lots of fun for the whole family.

Treats

Parents searching for tempting stocking fillers will also be able to purchase limited-edition handmade festive chocolates from the World's Biggest Cadbury Shop, just one of the 14 different zones that make up Cadbury World.

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Official return of the 'Great Detective'



Sherlock Holmes returns in *The House Of Silk*, the first Holmes novel approved by the estate of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle

SIR Arthur Conan Doyle's great detective, Sherlock Holmes, is back in the first novel actually commissioned by the author's estate, *The House of Silk* (hardback, Orion, £18.99) by Anthony Horowitz.

Of course, Holmes is a master of the comeback. Conan Doyle apparently first killed him off when Holmes and his nemesis the criminal mastermind Professor Moriarty, plunged into the Reichenbach Falls in *The Final Solution*, first published in the Strand Magazine in 1893 and later included in *The Memoirs of Sherlock Holmes*. However, so great was the outcry that the Scottish writer brought him back for another series of adventures, and Holmes was eventually to die in retirement on the South Downs having finally found time for his hobby of beekeeping.

The final collection of Holmes stories, *The Case-Book of Sherlock Holmes*, was published in 1927, three years before the author's death.

There have, of course, been lots of stories in print and on screen involving Holmes and his friend and biographer Dr John Watson since then, but this is the first work to be added to the official canon by Conan Doyle's estate. It comes at a time when the iconic detective has never been more popular, the two most recent manifestations of his enduring appeal being Guy Ritchie's action-movie version and Steven Moffat and Mark Gatiss' more cerebral and stylish 21st century updating in a BBC TV drama.

But the elementary question remains, is it any good? The answer is an emphatic yes. The estate chose wisely in Horowitz who, though he is best known as a children's author for his hugely successful Alex Rider adventures, was the screenwriter who adapted Agatha Christie's fastidious Belgian detective Hercule Poirot for television.

The House of Silk is full of references that Holmes aficionados will recognise and enjoy but it is also a cracking crime mystery in its own right.

The set-up is the discovery of a manuscript, 100 years after the death of Holmes, which is Watson's account of a case so controversial and shocking that it could not be published.

So the game is afoot, again. An apparently straightforward case of an Irish-American ruffian seeking revenge on a London art dealer, because he was named alongside the millionaire who put trigger-happy Pinkerton agents on his gang's trail, proves to be more complex. When one of Holmes' Baker Street Irregulars, the street urchins who act as his eyes and ears in the criminal underworld, is brutally murdered Holmes vows to bring the mysterious House of Silk to justice.

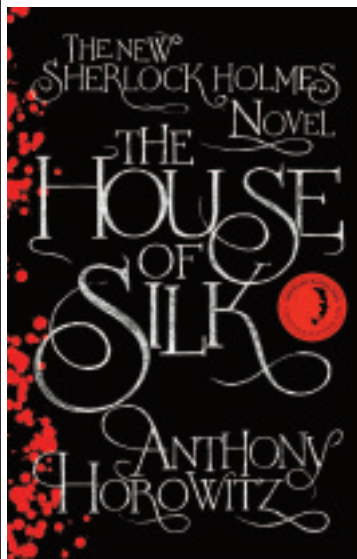
Horowitz suggests Conan Doyle's style without copying it (that could risk parody) and his descriptions are sometimes more detailed than those that Conan Doyle would give. He also omits the original author's more archaic turns of phrase. Often Conan Doyle's stories feature long periods of dialogue that read like a script whereas Horowitz creates a richly atmospheric London of fog, poverty and lurking evil.

It is easy to deduce which book crime fiction fans should be reading this winter.

Leon Burakowski



Anthony Horowitz: the author who adapted Agatha Christie's Hercule Poirot for television has now created a new adventure for Sherlock Holmes



Kidderminster Christmas Lights

Switch On!

Saturday 19th November at 4.30pm

Loads to see and do from 2.00 pm-4.45 pm

Christmas Lights Switch On 4.30 pm

by Father Christmas, the Mayor of Kidderminster

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- Kidderminster Singer Laura Broad (3.15 pm-3.45 pm & 4.00 pm-4.30 pm)
- Appearance from Father Christmas (3.30 pm-4.00 pm)
- Check out the other entertainment throughout the day in The Swan Shopping Centre

(See full page advert on page 19)

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Kidderminster Christmas Lights Switch On!

Saturday, November 19th, 4.30pm

CHRISTMAS will be arriving in Kidderminster this weekend when the town is officially lit up for the festive season.

The switch on will be led by Father Christmas, Kidderminster Mayor Anne Hingley and a competition winner at 4.30pm outside the Town Hall on Saturday.

Festivities will begin at 2pm outside the hall on Vicar Street and entertainment will include performances by the St George's Choir, Kidderminster singer Laura Broad and soloist Benny Jay.

There will also be a range of activities going on throughout the day at the Swan shopping centre and youngsters will get the chance to meet Father Christmas between 3.30 and 4pm. Residents are also invited to the grand opening of the Coronation Gardens.

The site between Worcester Street and Oxford Street will be unveiled at 2.30pm before an afternoon of live music led by Sudio Suki.

BBC Hereford and Worcester Radio will be reporting live from the annual affair organised by Wyre Forest District Council, The Swan Centre, The Rowland Hill Shopping Centre and Churches Together.

For more details visit www.wyreforestdc.gov.uk or call 01562 732928.

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Hit comedy with a festive flavour



Stars of Season's Greeting at the Grand

FURTHER to the play's recent sell-out season at the National Theatre, Bill Kenwright presents a brand new production of Alan Ayckbourn's hit comedy Season's Greetings which opens in Wolverhampton on Monday, November 21.

The story picks up at Christmastime at Belinda and Neville's house – a time for family and friends to come together and celebrate the festivities. But with one frustrated wife, a seductive stranger, two eccentric uncles and a mechanical monkey, it soon turns into an explosive festive treat.

Season's Greetings star lady is Glynis Barber perhaps most recently known as EastEnders' Glenda Mitchell who first shot to fame as in the 80s hit TV series Dempsey and Makepeace. She appears alongside Denis Lill, star of the TV drama The Royal; Ricky Groves, who played Gary Hobbs in EastEnders; Matthew Bose who was Paul Lambert in Emmerdale and Christopher Timothy, best known for portraying James Herriot in All Creatures Great and Small.

Season's Greetings opens at Wolverhampton Grand Theatre on Monday, November 21 and runs until Saturday, November 26. There is a matinee on Wednesday, November 23 at 2.30pm, with evening shows starting at 7.30pm.

Tickets are priced from £10 to £25, with concessions available. Phone the box office on 01902 42 92 12 or go online at grandtheatre.co.uk for further details.

Stars are set to shine at NEC memorabilia festival

CELEBRITIES from across the UK will be congregating this month at the Winter Memorabilia Show at the NEC, Birmingham.

Movie stars, television personalities and sporting legends will be meeting fans and giving autographs, alongside a huge range of special guests and exhibitors.

A number of cast reunions will be taking place from TV series such as cult British comedies Only Fools and Horses and Hi-de-hi.

This year's guest list also includes Kai Owen from Torchwood, Sir Derek Jacobi from The King's Speech, Bruce Boxleitner from Tron and Babylon 5 and Bruce Davison from X-Men.

Among sports stars signing autographs and meeting fans will be former footballers Roy Keane, Denis Law, Trevor Francis, Ken McNaught from Aston Villa's 1982 European Cup Final winning team, and ex-heavyweight champion Tim Witherspoon.

There's even a special Doctor Who appearance as Colin Baker, the sixth Doctor, Arthur Darvill, Rory Williams, Kai Owen, Rhys Williams, will be among the special guests at the show.

Experience

Other Doctor Who stars attending Memorabilia include Doctor's companions Katy Manning, Deborah Watling, Louise Jameson and Sarah Sutton, while Frances Barber, William Gaunt, Marshall Lancaster and Chester Durrant, all of which have appeared in the series, will be making appearances.

In addition to all the star guests, there's a chance to experience the special Battlefield 3 Operations Outpost which is themed around the critically-acclaimed shooter game which is on everyone's lips at the moment.

As well as showing the game on a giant 103in screen, the outpost will provide five other console gaming stations and a pair of PC gaming stations in addition to the Get in the Game station where Memorabilia visitors can have their photo taken in a Battlefield 3 scene.

For creative types, the show also features the Comic Village where comic creators, artists,



Fun for all the family at the show

writers or fans can meet and gain insight into new creations, as well as guidance and advice on a project.

The show is open to the public from 10am to



The Memorabilia Show is always popular

5pm on Saturday, November 19 and from 11am to 5pm on Sunday, November 20.

For more details log on to the website at www.the-nec.co.uk

Live laughter on the cards

THERE will be plenty of funny business going on in our region in the new year with several of the UK's favourite comedians announcing dates at West Midlands venues.

The biggest news, which has already caused a stampede at the box office, is the return of Billy Connolly to the live arena and he's playing relatively intimate venues compared with some of the mega-barns favoured by the latest big names in comedy.

The Big Yin may be better known these days for his travel documentaries but as anyone who has attended one of his gigs will tell you, he is a master of the rambling anecdote and, at his best, is the best in the business.

The Glaswegian funnyman brings his The Man Live to Birmingham for shows at the Symphony Hall on February 24 and 25, and is at Wolverhampton Civic Hall on March 2 and 3.

Welsh wizard of leek-based humour Max Boyce brings his stories and songs to Birmingham Town Hall on February 18, while Jimmy Carr ignores his Gagging Order to bring his 16th and 17th shows to the Symphony Hall at either end of next summer, on May 3 and August 24.

Robin Ince, Professor Brian Cox's co-presenter of Radio 4's The Infinite Monkey Cage, will prove there are laughs in science at The Slade Rooms in Wolverhampton on February 8, and Paul Merton stops his globe-trotting to return to his improv roots in Out Of My Head at Birmingham's New Alexandra Theatre on April 7.

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* The "from" price and price bands vary for each show – see brochure for details. Single room supplements apply.

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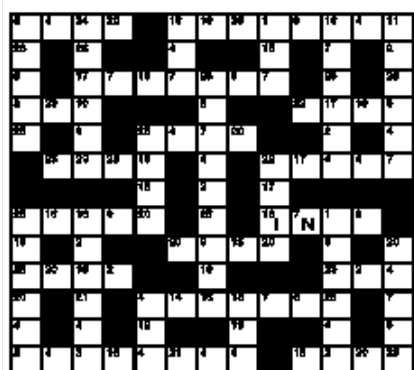
www.mondaynightgroup.org

Brain Gym

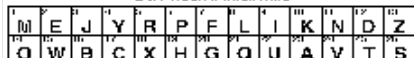
No. 143

Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



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Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.

Cryptic Clues:

Across

- It should have a safety pin in it (7)
- It's used in many long-legged girls' stockings (5)
- Current measure gives a start to a politician (8)
- One hopes he doesn't make marginal mistakes (9)
- Working like a juggler? (2,9)
- He doesn't engage in serious pursuits (11)
- He stops on many local (8)
- Exactly what is required for encouragement (8)
- Idiot and to come back as a fool (5)
- It's on earth, perhaps, but not this one (7)

Down

- State of mind or body (5)
- Object and don't go on (8)
- A form of mood where there's no more (4)
- Ruling lines (9)
- So behind a Scots man's head (7)
- Scare about nothing and run (8)
- Result of a big blow to the economy? (9)
- Girls admired by gentlemen, though stuck up (3,9)
- Those out of touch may want to pick them up (7)
- Rollers - or made by rollers (5)
- Scotten hallow (4)
- Utter despatchery (5)

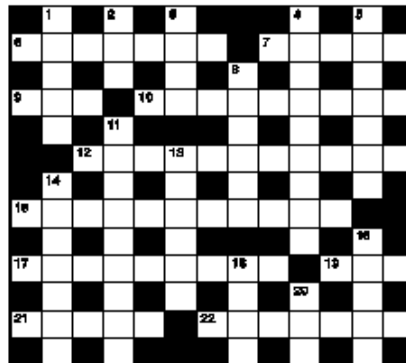
Quick Clues:

Across

- Spoken softly (7)
- Animal (5)
- Rock (3)
- Share out (9)
- Melancholy (3,9)
- Tropical disease (5,9)
- Residing in (8)
- Encountered (3)
- Drive away (5)
- Clumey (7)

Down

- Extire (5)
- Serpent (3)
- Profound (4)
- Worship (9)
- Annoy (7)
- Quaver (6)
- Clapped (9)
- Ever (8)
- Schoolmaster (7)
- Gay (5)
- Information (4)
- Female sheep (5)



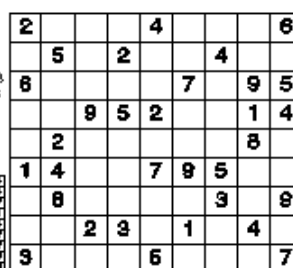
LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS:

CRYPTIC: Across: 7. Gilt-edged, 8. Littered, 9. Wife, 10. Ache, 11. Stew, 12. Enigma, 13. Sinner, 14. Aft, 15. Linger, 16. Only, 17. Linger, 18. Only, 19. Linger, 20. Only, 21. Linger, 22. Only, 23. Linger, 24. Only, 25. Linger, 26. Only. Down: 1. Stagnant, 2. Sinner, 3. Litter, 4. Sinner, 5. Litter, 6. Sinner, 7. Litter, 8. Sinner, 9. Litter, 10. Sinner, 11. Litter, 12. Sinner, 13. Litter, 14. Sinner, 15. Litter, 16. Sinner, 17. Litter, 18. Sinner, 19. Litter, 20. Sinner, 21. Litter, 22. Sinner, 23. Litter, 24. Sinner, 25. Litter, 26. Sinner.

Sudoku

Fill in the grid below so that every row and every column, every 3x3 box contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS:



Circlegram

Replace the question mark with a letter so that the letters within each circle can be arranged to form words on a common theme. What are the three words, and the letter represented by the question mark?



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Your essential guide to the world of motoring compiled by Motoring Editor Sharon Walters

Rio grand on motorway and around the lanes

KIA has been steadily advancing its range with the ambition to have the newest line-up in the UK and the Rio is its latest car.

The Rio is a direct competitor to cars such as the Fiesta and Corsa so it needs to be good to compete in this market – and first impressions are excellent.

By Neil Ward

The Rio has been restyled and is a new take on the classic wedge style. What this means for me is that there is great ratio of bodywork to glass.

Sometimes cars in this sector look more like greenhouses on wheels than stylish cars

so top marks to Kia here. In terms of practicality the Rio has a large boot, which I did manage to fill, so can bear testament to its load carrying capacity.

On the inside Kia has also done a great job with the height adjustable driver's seat and steering column. The instrument cluster is well designed with the three clock binnacle and numerous switches on the steering wheel which all fell easily to hand.

Other switches are in the centre and are toggle type switches, which I really liked. Also the rear seats can be folded down to create even more space if needed.

For a first test I had a drive from London to Shropshire – so if the Kia was not going to cut it, this would be a good way to find out.

Bearing in mind it is a 1.1litre engine I was surprised that it pulled so well and very quickly the Rio settled into its stride on the motorway. Keeping pace in the outside lane was no problem and with the nice six-speed gearbox it was not tiring to drive. And, to boot, it was achieving nearly 80mpg!

How can I put this? With budget cars sometimes there is a flaw in the overall experience so my expectation was that everything else being OK the comfort would be compromised – but I was to be surprised again by the Rio. After nearly three hours in the car I did not feel any tiredness at which did surprise me but is testament to the care that Kia has put in to this car.

So in search of a flaw I pushed the Rio around the Shropshire lanes to see if the suspension and steering had been the object of the bean counters' revenge but, again, no. The Rio handles well and soaks up the bumps easily. So how does the Kia compare to the others in what is a very competitive sector of the market? Very well – modern styling and a range of engines. In the interiors there is pretty much everything everyone in the Rio range can expect. A seven-year Kia warranty is a bonus. It has definitely hit the spot in terms of price and value.



The instrument cluster is well designed with switches on the steering wheel



Kia's Rio has a new take on the wedge style

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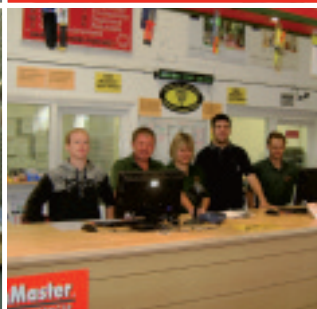


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sport

Flowing rugby as DK take the victory

A FREE-FLOWING game of rugby ended with DK as convincing winners, although Malvern pegged them back from a 27-0 lead just half an hour in.

DK hit the ground running and after two minutes a Simon Fletcher penalty gave them a 3-0 lead.

Four minutes later the early advantage was increased to 10-0 when Jon Higgins eluded the Malvern cover from a set scrum to register a con-

**Dudley Kingswinford 41
Malvern 19**

verted try. The visitors were to rue two missed penalties opportunities when DK raced further ahead after 18 minutes through Stefan Shillingford's try, again converted by Fletcher.

A third try from the rampant DK came just three minutes later when a wonderful 50-metre handling move involving Duncan Chance, Jon

Tideswell and Shaun Griffiths was finished off by Ian Langford.

Matt Farrington then scored the try of the game after 26 minutes, chasing the loose ball close to the left touchline and outpacing a couple of defenders before dribbling the ball on to touch home in the corner.

Malvern did register a score before half-time when full back Luke Milton raced in at the corner and after the break had Chris Griffiths driven over

for a converted try. DK responded with their fifth try, thanks to Higgins' perfectly judged pass which allowed Shillingford to thunder over the line.

Malvern kept plugging away and Milton registered his second try from a threaded Thomas Longley pass.

The visitors went for broke, attacking from behind their goal line, but Tideswell intercepted a pass and went over to make it 41-19 via Fletcher's conversion.

STUBBINS STARS ON TOWN DEBUT

Dudley Town 0 Bewdley Town 2

WEAKENED Bewdley put in a fine display to take a midweek victory on the road.

Bewdley had Aaron Stubbins from the under-21 side filling in at full-back.

But Town produced a good all-round team performance – and Stubbins, on his senior debut, was superb.

The first half of this match followed the pattern of many recent performances with Bewdley having the majority of the possession and playing some attractive football but failing to manufacture goal opportunities.

Both goalkeepers were virtual spectators until the 45th minute when the Dudley shotstopper had to make a save from a Craig Webb effort.

The second half followed the pattern of the first, but this time Bewdley were able to turn possession into goals.

The breakthrough came following a free-kick when Dudley's Ross Love turned the ball into his own net.

The second goal came following a superb pass from Stubbins down the wing to Chris Seekings who calmly beat the goalkeeper to score his fourth goal of the season.

Dudley did put Bewdley under pressure in the last five minutes but still couldn't manage a shot on target.

**Goodrich 4
Bewdley Town 3**

After their excellent midweek performance Bewdley travelled to Goodrich with a host of players missing through injury.

The visitors still led 2-1 at half-time thanks to a couple of goals from Russell Godfrey.

But it should have been more with Bewdley again guilty of missing a host of gilt-edge chances.

This profligacy proved their undoing as three second-half goals from Goodrich punished Bewdley's error in not killing off the game when on top.

In the last 15 minutes Bewdley managed to get the score back to 4-3 with substitute Simon Rudd slamming the ball home from a Chris Seekings cross.

The remainder of the game saw Bewdley dominate without being able to get the equaliser and being left to rue, not for the first time, missed opportunities.

Bewdley will be hoping to get back to winning ways on Saturday when they host Malvern Town (3pm).

Late push wins it for Carolians

K'minster Carolians 24

A LATE surge by Kidderminster ensured victory in front of a crowd swelled by Banbury's travelling support.

Banbury's backs looked lively from the opening whistle but a thumping tackle by lock Matt Bennett and a raking touch kick by Andy McLellan to establish early field position showed that KCs meant business and with five minutes played fly-half Chris Pinner knocked over a penalty to give them a 3-0 lead.

The visitors then stopped a lineout drive illegally, resulting in a yellow card for Banbury's hooker, but survived the onslaught, writes **Martin Easton**.

Unforced errors were hampering the home side and although Banbury's three were seeing very little of the ball they looked dangerous when they had it. Banbury levelled five minutes before the break with a penalty and had a big passage of play in the second period without scoring. It proved crucial as Kidderminster began to dominate and notched two scores in as many minutes.

Number eight Layton Wilkinson smashed his way over from a five-metre scrum and then a chip kick bounced kindly for centre Nick Martin who put replacement left-wing Scott Lovell over for a try with his first touch.

Both were converted by Pinner and although Banbury landed a penalty he had the last word, converting his own score.

The Kidderminster Chronicle, a Midland News Association Ltd publication, printed by the company at Ketley, Telford on Thursday, November 17, 2011.



Bewdley keeper Darren Steadman clears a corner while under severe pressure in his side's loss to Goodrich. Picture: Pete Aston, peteraston@blueyonder.co.uk

Seven-goal thriller as Stour keep the unbeaten record

Stourport 4 Leicester 3

STOURPORT ladies firsts remain unbeaten in hockey's Midland Premier League after a seven-goal thriller.

They led 4-2 and Leicester's last goal came right on the final whistle.

The home team had most of the early possession but conceded against the run of play.

Kerry Maughan's yellow card reduced them to 10 players and they had to soak up some pressure before equalising when Sarah Cavendish converted a penalty flick.

Stourport looked more of a threat going forward in the second half, and Erin Preece put them ahead with a deflected shot.

But again they went down to 10 players, Katie Miller this time the offender, and the visitors levelled the score.

However, Stourport regained the advantage when Jade Marshall-Walker finished off a good move.

Pippa Lewis made it 4-2 and Leices-

ter's reply came too late to affect the outcome.

Birmingham University 2 Stourport 1

Despite being a goal up at half-time, Stourport seconds slipped to defeat in Midland Feeders West.

The visitors had gone ahead through Bethan Merriman but the University equalised 20 minutes into the second period.

A controversial penalty flick converted with five minutes to go proved decisive.

Stourport 1 Redditch 5

The thirds remain fifth, above their rivals Redditch, despite this big defeat.

Old Halesonians 2 Stourport 1

The fourths lie eighth in the table after this loss.

Stourport 1 Worcester 2

Worcester edged a hard-fought match to go top of the table.

The visitors pressed from the start, confining the home side to their own half.

It was no real surprise when Worcester took the lead early on. They continued to attack, but Stourport's defence

battled for every ball and although they struggled to get any distance on their clearances did prevent Worcester from scoring again.

In fact, helped by their player of the match Katie Knott, in midfield, Stourport first steadied themselves and then began to pose a threat themselves as the match became more evenly contested.

Despite this Stourport were still a goal down as they entered the second half and leaked a controversial second amid belief that the ball had hit a visitor's foot before a cross came in for the goal.

Stourport channelled their frustrations effectively and gained their reward when they pulled a goal back. A fine strike by Mary O'Brien took a deflection and finished up in the corner of the goal.

Stourport, who had created some excellent chances before this goal, now pushed for the equaliser.

But Worcester held firm and moved top of the table while the home side slipped to fifth.

Dream day for Glassboys in FA Cup shock

Plymouth Argyle 3 Stourbridge 3

THE only things missing for Stourbridge were an 'R' and a fairytale finish.

But neither a spelling error on their shirts nor a tinge of late disappointment came close to spoiling their dream day in Devon.

Saturday was the biggest day in the Glassboys' 135-year history, writes **Steve Madeley**.

Three goals, 90 pulsating minutes and 865 travelling fans ensured it was their most memorable occasion too.

Yet such was the scale of the stunning effort from Gary Hackett's players, they could yet top it on Tuesday when the War Memorial Ground hosts the replay on what promises to be a special evening.

Hackett and Co came so close to one of the most momentous giant-killings in recent FA Cup history – just two minutes plus stoppage-time – that they must have departed with at least a hint of regret. But optimism and pride were foremost as they gave themselves a second chance to win a home tie with Stevenage in round two.

If League Two strugglers Plymouth kicked off on Saturday unsure what to expect from Stourbridge, they will arrive in the West Midlands knowing exactly what they are up against.

Curve

And in Ryan Rowe, they will face a striker whose all-action, eye-catching display suggests his career is beginning to climb an upward curve. The in-form forward was at the heart of a Stourbridge performance that started poorly but ended with the men from the Southern League Premier Division unfortunate not to book a second-round spot at the first time of asking.

They must have feared the worst when, just 24 hours before the game, their specially-printed commemorative shirts arrived with a missing 'R'.

And when they fell behind after four minutes, the boys from "Stourbridge" could have been forgiven for wondering if the football gods had turned against them.

For the first 20 minutes Hackett's men chased shadows and a full international – Northern Ireland's Warren Feeney – headed the Pilgrims ahead from a perfectly-delivered cross by former Kidderminster loanee Paul Bignot.

But Stourbridge grew in confidence and drew level seven minutes before the break. Rowe's shot on the turn was saved by Romain Larrieu but when Ben Billingham picked up the pieces, crossed to the far



Not even playing as 'Stourbridge' with an embroidery error on their shirts could dent the Glassboys' pride after their epic 3-3 draw at Plymouth Argyle

post and Leon Broadhurst nodded across goal, Aaron Drake could not miss from a couple of yards out.

Eight minutes after the restart Rowe raced onto Drake's clever lofted pass and deflected the advancing Larrieu with a delicious chip.

A major slice of luck got the hosts level as player-boss Carl Fletcher's shot took a horrible deflection and looped into the net.

The part-timers looked out on their feet but found a second wind and when Rowe was dragged to the floor by Robbie Williams, a penalty gave them a chance to make history. The smallest man on the field, Sean Geddes, stood tall to bury the spot-kick and the dismissal of Williams gave the visitors cause for hope.

But there was one more twist as Plymouth left-back Onismor Bhasera danced his way into the box and struck a low shot past Solly.

There was still time for Plymouth to be reduced to nine men when Conor Horihane was shown a second yellow card.

At the end, Stourbridge began to comprehend not what they had lost, but what they had gained – respect, admiration, memories – and the chance to go one better.

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